Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Highlights of Our Year: 1999-2000

Our Mandate

To advise the Minister. To bring forward the concerns of women.

Our Mission

To advance equality, fairness and dignity for all women.

Our Vision

A province where all women enjoy full equality...

- where women of diverse cultures, races, religions and sexual orientations participate in decisions that affect their lives, families and communities...where women sit in equal numbers in legislatures
- where legislation, policies and programs of governments reflect that equality
- where women's earning power equals that of men...where women are welcomed in all professions and trades...where household work and child care is valued by all and shared equally by women and men
- where no woman fears violence in her home, workplace or community
- where women's health and well-being is a priority for women, health services and government

Goals and Accomplishments

Inclusion

The Council works to increase the participation of women in all their diversity in decisions that affect their lives, families, and communities, with particular emphasis on those who face discrimination because of race, age, language, class, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or various forms of family status.

- Partnered with L'Association des Acadiennes de La Nouvelle-Écosse to produce a peer education program called *Moi, Je M'Affirme*. The program trains senior women to deliver workshops for the prevention of elder abuse.

- Organized three focus groups of rural women leaders to assist Professor Louise Carbert in research to identify barriers and opportunities for greater political participation by rural women.

- Organized networking meetings for proponents of science and technology initiatives for women.

- Advisory Council Chair sat on Mi'kmaq Education Council and the Race Relations Committee of the Nova Scotia Barristers Society.

- Participated in joint planning for women's centre funding.

- Ensured that proposal for a Community Alliance for Health Research, submitted jointly with the Maritime Centre of Excellence for Women's Health, has a strong commitment for the inclusion of racially-visible groups in the research.

- Built on previous work with young women by participating in conference planning for *Raising Voices, Channeling Energies II*, to be held in Yarmouth in May 2000.

- Supported continuation of women's history project through mural development in Amherst, Nova Scotia, and assisted research on the history of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women by providing necessary background information.

Advice to Government

- Council Chair presented brief to the Federal Standing Committee on Finance during the annual federal budget consultation.

- Initiated discussion of ways to provide gender-based analysis for government initiatives, through presentation to deputy ministers, initial consultation with policy staff and survey of other jurisdictions. Contributed to international conference on gender-based analysis, *Made to Measure*, held in Halifax under the auspices of the Maritime Centre of Excellence for Women's Health with Council Chair as a keynote speaker.

- Facilitated development of Nova Scotia's fourth report on the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

- Maintained contact with community groups interested in governmental policy initiatives.

- Contributed to the Fiscal Review Task Force and program review.

- Partnered with the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAW) in public presentation of information on the United Nations conferences on the Status of Women. Council Chair was keynote speaker at the Halifax launch of the World March of Women 2000.

- Council Chair participated in preparatory conference in Geneva for the June 2000 United Nations Special General Assembly on the Status of Women.

Economic Equality

- Council continues to liaise with the Women's Community Economic Development Network and takes part in the Interdepartmental Committee on Community Economic Development.

- In Amherst, Council is a co-sponsor of a planned conference on the Plastics Industry in Cumberland County.

- Council sponsored a policy forum, *"A Woman's Work is Never Done"~ Can Policy Value Caregiving?* Judy Rebick lectured on *Transforming the Value of Work: Next Steps to Women's Equality*.

- Liaison and support to the Association of Nova Scotia Women for Education and Research in Science (ANSWERS), Women in Trades and Technology - Nova Scotia (WITT-NS), Women in Information Technology (Win-IT), Techsploration and Hypatia projects all keep Council abreast of programs to increase women's participation in science and technology careers and allows us to facilitate contact and cooperation among the groups.

- Contributed to consultations of the Expert Panel on Skills of the federal Advisory Council on Science and Technology; and Treasury Board Canada's consultation of the Task Force on an Inclusive Public Service.

- In fall 1999, Council took part in the *Women in Business Conference* in Sydney, Cape Breton.

Eliminating Violence Against Women

- Ongoing staff involvement with Department of Justice committee to develop screening protocols and procedures to prevent inappropriate use of mediation in situations of woman abuse, either past or present.

- Ongoing consultation in the area of restorative justice, to ensure that the processes are not misused and that they do not re-victimize women.

- Initiation of discussion with the Antigonish Women's Centre on the use of conditional sentencing in cases of sexual assault and other crimes of violence.

- Support to Sackville High School's Relationship Anti-Violence Education project, involving young women in anti-violence education.

- Initial discussion regarding the problems of mothers whose teenage sons and daughters are abusing them.

- Partnered with DalTech students in the development of a poster to mark the 10th anniversary of the Montreal massacre and, through fieldwork program, took part in planning activities and events to mark December 6 and Family Violence Prevention Week.

- Helped plan the March 2000 conference entitled *Hate: Poisoning Youth - A conference on hate in activities, literature and marketing to youth.* Council Chair was panelist at the conference.

- Referred sexist/racist literature to Advertising Standard Council of Canada.

Improved Health and Well-Being

- Continued collaboration with the Maritime Centre of Excellence for Women's Health, including the development of a research proposal, conference participation, joint committee work, and future planning.

- Contributed to consultation on reproductive and genetic technologies preparatory to Health Canada legislation.

- Continued support of well women's clinics through fieldwork program.

- Promotion of positive body image and healthy eating by young women, through partnership with Dalhousie researchers.

- Council Chair continues participation on research into the health needs of Aboriginal women.

Back to Publications page

Back to NSACSW Home

Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women
2000 - April 28